

**House Resolution**

**No. 28**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Holden, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Medina, Melendez, Morrell, Mullin, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)*

January 28, 2014

House Resolution No. 28—Relative to Black History Month.

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, distinguished African  
2 American author, editor, publisher, and historian, who is known  
3 as the “Father of Black History,” founded Negro History Week in  
4 1926, which became Black History Month in 1976, intended to  
5 encourage further research and publishing regarding the untold  
6 stories of African American heritage; and  
7 WHEREAS, The history of African Americans here in the  
8 United States, as well as throughout the ages, is indeed unique and  
9 vibrant, and it is appropriate to celebrate this history during the  
10 month of February 2014, which has been proclaimed as Black  
11 History Month; and

1 WHEREAS, There is even greater cause for a reverent  
2 celebration in 2014 as Americans reflect on the significance of the  
3 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, and the 60th anniversary  
4 of the landmark United States Supreme Court case of Brown versus  
5 the Board of Education; and

6 WHEREAS, The history of the United States is rich with  
7 inspirational stories of great men and noble women whose actions,  
8 words, and achievements have united Americans and contributed  
9 to the success and prosperity of the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, The slave trade was a tragic episode in African  
11 history and began before August 1619 when the first slaves arrived  
12 in Jamestown, Virginia. During the course of the slave trade, an  
13 estimated 50 million African men, women, and children were lost  
14 to their native continent, though only about 15 million arrived  
15 safely to a new home. The others lost their lives on African soil  
16 or along the Guinea coast, or finally in holds on the ships during  
17 the dreaded Middle Passage across the Atlantic Ocean; and

18 WHEREAS, The first American to shed blood in the revolution  
19 that freed America from British rule was Crispus Attucks, an  
20 African American seaman and slave killed on March 5, 1770, in  
21 the Boston Massacre. African Americans also fought in wars  
22 including the Battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775,  
23 Ticonderoga, White Plains, Bennington, Brandywine, Saratoga,  
24 Savannah, Yorktown, Bunker Hill, the Battle of Rhode Island on  
25 August 29, 1775, and other revolutionary war battles, the War of  
26 1812, including, the Battle of New Orleans, the Civil War, the  
27 Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, Korea, and Vietnam;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, In spite of the African slave trade, many Africans  
30 and African Americans continued to move forward in society;  
31 during the Reconstruction period, two African Americans served  
32 in the United States Senate and 14 served in the United States  
33 House of Representatives; and

34 WHEREAS, From the earliest days of the United States, the  
35 course of its history has been greatly influenced by Black heroes  
36 and pioneers in many diverse areas, from science, medicine,  
37 business, and education to government, industry, and social  
38 leadership; and

39 WHEREAS, Africans and African Americans have also been  
40 great inventors, inventing and improving things such as the

1 air-conditioning unit, almanac, automatic gearshift, blood plasma  
2 bag, clothes dryer, doorknob, doorstop, electric lamp bulb, elevator,  
3 fire escape ladder, fountain pen, gas mask, golf tee, horseshoe,  
4 lantern, lawnmower, lawn sprinkler, lock, lubricating cup,  
5 refrigerating apparatus, spark plug, stethoscope, telephone  
6 transmitter, thermostat control, traffic signal, and typewriter; and

7 WHEREAS, A number of these brave and accomplished  
8 individuals, such as Booker T. Washington, George Washington  
9 Carver, Matthew Hensen, Daniel Hale Williams, Dr. Charles Drew,  
10 Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, Curt Flood, Medgar Evers, and,  
11 of course, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., are noted prominently in  
12 the history books of students nationwide, thus enabling students  
13 to learn about the important and lasting contributions of these  
14 individuals; and

15 WHEREAS, Among those Americans who have enriched our  
16 society are the members of the African American  
17 community—individuals who have been steadfast in their  
18 commitment to promoting brotherhood, equality, and justice for  
19 all; now, therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
21 Assembly takes great pleasure in recognizing February 2014 as  
22 Black History Month, urges all citizens to join in celebrating the  
23 accomplishments of African Americans during Black History  
24 Month, and encourages the people of California to recognize the  
25 many talents, achievements, and contributions that African  
26 Americans make to their communities; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
28 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.